

GAS FROM WATER.—If there be any truth in the details of the *Boston Daily Transcript*, whence the following extract is gleaned, the gas companies may rejoice in the hope of being able to supply the general public with gas as freely, as abundantly, and certainly as cheaply, as the water companies can supply water. Many, no doubt, might be induced to prepare their own gas, even in private houses, were the companies to fail in the expectations to which such an alleged discovery might lead; but this the main body of the public are by no means likely to do, if liberally dealt with by the existing companies. The details in question relate to a reported discovery by a Mr. Paine, of Worcester, U.S., already notified in *THE BUILDER*. "Mr. Paine does not claim the discovery of decomposing water, but he does claim the discovery of a new principle of electricity, by which the decomposition of water is very rapidly produced, at a merely nominal cost."

The entire labour required to make a day's supply of gas for a common dwelling-house does not occupy two minutes in turning a crank; and the machine takes up about as much room as a common mantel clock. Writing upon this subject, Elihu Burritt says:—"There is not only a saving of expense, but of work, and the inconvenience and care of wood, coal, and ashes, and the danger from fire are almost completely annihilated. This is not supposition: we saw the lights, followed the pipes to the cellar, and saw the apparatus employed for the decomposition of the water; and we must say we can hardly find words to express our astonishment at the simplicity of the machine, when, at same time, we think of the greatness and grandeur of the discovery. This must rank, if not above, certainly equal with, the greatest discoveries and inventions of the age. Wood, and coal, and oil, and fluid may all be dispensed with by the use of Mr. Paine's apparatus." Mr. Burritt further says—"Two jets such as were burning in his house would be sufficient to light a moderate-sized hall every night, at an expense of the interest on the cost of the machine (about six dollars per annum), with only the little trouble of occasionally filling the water cistern." It is understood that Mr. Paine has disposed of his proprietary right to his discovery for a sum which may at first seem incredible. The terms of purchase are reported to be five millions of dollars, half a million down. Mr. Paine is expecting a visit from the committee on gas of our city government, at Worcester, to-day, to look into this matter."

FEEs FOR VALUATION OF PROPERTY.—Medara Shuttlesworth and Co., the auctioneers, have recovered, in the Court of Exchequer, the full amount of their charges for trouble and outlay, as valuers, in estimating "that John-affect Chapel, near Doughty-street, was worth, from its pew rents, 350*l.* per annum, which, at twenty years' purchase, gave a value of 7,000*l.*; that the value of the land was 1,600*l.*, and that the value of the old materials for building purposes was 1,200*l.*, which, deducted from the 7,000*l.*, left a sum of 5,800*l.* as the actual value; that five houses of the higher class could be built upon the land, at a cost of 850*l.* each, to yield an annual rental of 60*l.*, and five of the smaller class for 300*l.* each, to give a rental respectively of 25*l.*." The defence was that the charges were exorbitant, and 25*l.* had been handed into court as full payment. The jury consulted for a few minutes only, and then returned their verdict for the plaintiffs, damages 57*l.* 7*s.*, including the sum paid into court.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—We are glad to learn that her Majesty has been pleased to mark her approbation of this exhibition by purchasing Mr. Warren's Egyptian picture "The Wise Men from the East," and Mr. Corbould's "Florette de Nerac."

ILLEGAL PRACTICE AMONGST NAILERS. At Handsworth Sessions, a nail manufacturer, of Harborne, charged a workman with leaving unaccounted for five bundles and seven quarters of rod iron, worth 20*s.* He stated that he had at present ten tons of iron in different hands unaccounted for. The late strike had perhaps something to do with it. Defendant pleaded guilty. Finally complainant gave two months to make good the deficiency, and the bench, admonishing the defendant, adjourned the case.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting on June 26, Mr. S. R. Solly, V. P., in the chair, Chevalier Zahn exhibited a series of his litho-chromatic plates, from the frescoes and mosaics of Herculaneum, &c. already mentioned by us. Mr. Planché read some interesting documents relating to the early history of Leadenhall and that neighbourhood, showing how the property in that part of London came into the possession of the Nevilles, in 1809, they being the first possessors mentioned by Stow. Mr. A. White exhibited a curious carved boss, formerly in the east cloister of the Priory of St. Bartholomew the Great, in Smithfield, which he had rescued from destruction some time since. It represents an Abbot, or Prior, and an Abbeas, standing face to face, with their staves over their shoulders, and holding up a beam of wood which passes longitudinally before the two figures. The subject here represented caused considerable discussion; Dr. Bell supposed it might have reference to the Premonstratensian Order, founded by Norbert, of Magdeburg, which ordered that each foundation should consist of a monastery and convent under the same roof, under the rule of the Abbess. It was likewise suggested that the female figure might be the representation of some benefactress, especially as there are indications of a coronet on the head. Mr. W. brought the general history of the priory and hospital before the meeting, and illustrated the subject by plans and drawings. The consideration of this subject was adjourned to the next meeting, and a day fixed for a visit to the remains of the priory.

DIOCESAN TRAINING SCHOOL, DERBY.—The foundation-stone of this institution, for the training of schoolmistresses was laid last Saturday week. The building, in design, is in accordance with those of James the First's time. The walls are of brick, with stone dressings. They are to be four stories in height, with basement only partly open. The principal entrance is through a porch rising two stories in height, with groined vestibule, on the right of which is a dining-room, 28 feet by 19, a chaplain room 20 feet by 14, and two class rooms, each 20 feet by 16. Wide corridors extend on the several stories from east to west, with access to all the apartments. There are dormitories for forty teachers, and accommodation for the principal and other conductors of the establishment on the two upper stories, and on each floor are bath-rooms, infirmaries, and water-closets. A ventilating shaft will form a prominent feature in the outline of the building, and the corridors, staircases, and entrances are to be warmed on Pice's plan. The contract was taken by Mr. G. Thompson, and the works are in rapid progress for completion by the 1st of June, 1851, at an entire cost, including site and furniture, of nearly 7,000*l.*, raised by grant and subscription. Mr. H. I. Stevens is the architect.

THE NEW KINGSWOOD SCHOOL AT BATH.—This building, the foundation stone of which, as already noticed, has been recently laid, is to occupy an area of about 15,000 square feet, in form of the letter H., with ground-floor and two upper stories. The principal elevation and entrance face to the south, with tower in the centre rising 82 feet above the highest level of a series of terraces. The style is perpendicular and domestic. The total frontage is about 210 feet, exclusive of an intended chapel, but including the two wings projecting 55 feet. The material is Bath stone. There will be accommodation for 150 students, sons of Wesleyan ministers. The whole building is to be warmed and ventilated by air-apparatus, wall flues, and valvular gratings, with culverts leading to the tower, the whole apparatus being used with cold air in summer and hot air in winter. The designs were furnished by Mr. James Wilson, and the work is being executed under his superintendence by Mr. James Vaughan, of Bath, builder.

VICTORIA-STREET SEWER.—Among the Parliamentary papers is published an estimate of the cost of the new sewer in Westminster. The contracts are two in number. The first, already in progress, is for a main brick sewer 3,982 feet long, 2,010 feet of it 5 feet 6 by 3 feet 10, the remainder 6 feet by 3 feet 3. It runs from Parliament-square, near Bridge-street, through the Broad Sanctuary, and along Victoria-street to near King's Scholars' pond

sewer at Shaftesbury-terrace, Piccadilly; estimated cost, 5,082*l.* The second is for two lines of main brick sewer, one 2,150 feet long, and 6 feet by 4 feet 3 in sectional area, commencing near Percy-wharf, and extending across Scotland-yard, Whitehall, and Parliament-street, to Parliament-square; and the other 300 feet long, and 8 feet by 5 feet 3 in area, extending also from Percy-wharf to Whitehall-place, with an outlet at low water built of timber, 400 feet long, for discharging the sewage temporarily into the river; estimate of second portion, 8,272*l.*

INSUFFICIENT IRON COLUMNS.—A fatal accident occurred last week at a workshop in the London-road, Southwark, formerly belonging to the Philanthropic Society, by the sudden bending of the iron columns supporting the beams and roof, and the fall of the whole building in consequence. One man was killed, and several others were severely injured. The cause of the accident appeared to be inexplicable. We hope, however, that by some time something has been done in the way of inquiry or examination, to account for so startling a catastrophe.

ARCHITECTURAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY.—The committee are soliciting assistance towards the supply of materials for the letter-press and illustrations; and they suggest the early payment of the subscription, to enable them to make the necessary arrangements with certainty. We need not urge the advantage that would result to the society, if every member would obtain at least one other subscriber: this would of course place the society in a position much more favourable to the members individually, by enabling the committee to issue in each year a greater number of works.

TENDERS

For a Warehouse in Eastcheap, under Mr. Edmund Woodthorpe, Architect.

Brown	£1,865
Abby and Co.	1,867
Piper	1,855
Abby and Son	1,840
Jay	1,828
Locke and Neesham	1,795
Grimsdell	1,791
Trego	1,588

For a new Church at Causton-on-Trent, near Newark. Mr. George Gordon Place, Architect.

Fisher and Co., Southwell	£1,654
Newell, Southwell	1,649
Dennett, Nottingham	1,530
Buttery, Causton	1,431
Sheibourn, Collingham	1,332
Lee and Smith, Nottingham	1,294
Hibbert and Dixon, Weyl	1,262
Simpson and Brown, Nottingham	1,285
Ferguson, Nottingham	1,217
Tinker and Huddleston	1,140

For the erection of a Chapel and Schools, Southwark, Kentland. Mr. Tarring, Architect. Quantities supplied by Messrs. Chas. Fowler and T. C. Tarring.

John Wood	£4,451 0 0
Silas Honeywell	4,380 0 0
Locke and Neesham	4,131 0 0
Hopkins and Roberts	4,050 0 0
Haynes and Co.	4,046 0 0
Myers	4,046 0 0
Wm. Higgs	4,028 0 0
Wm. Smith	3,903 0 0
Holland	3,748 10 0

For a new Warehouse for Messrs. Dent and Co., Wood-street, Chancery. Mr. John Wallen, Architect.

Abby and Son	£7,804
Jay	7,730
Lee and Son	7,713
Piper	7,655
Trego	7,373
Grimsdell	7,376
Lawrence and Sons	7,354
Thomas Barton	7,336

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